



Communities
Overview Committee

24 November 2021

10.00 am

Item
3
Public

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2021

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall

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Present

Councillor Robert Macey (Leader)

Councillors Ted Clarke, Mark Jones, Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman), Duncan Kerr, Christian Lea, Elliott Lynch, Dan Morris and Vivienne Parry

13 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nigel Hartin.

14 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

15 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2021

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 21 July 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

16 Public Question Time

Two questions were received from Professor John Whitelegg relating to bus services and related CO2 emissions and the adoption of CPRE's "one bus, every hour, every village" standard. A full copy of the questions and responses provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

17 Member Question Time

There were no questions from Members.

18 Domestic Abuse

Following a report from Laura Fisher, Head of Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living on Domestic Abuse, Members were provided with an overview of the Domestic Abuse Bill which was signed into law on 29th April 2021.

Beverley Hull, Service Manager, Adult Services provided members with figures of those fleeing domestic abuse currently using the service.

Wendy Bulman, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service Manager, advised members that they have commissioned the service on behalf of Shropshire Council for the past 5 years; ending in March 2022. She provided an overview of the services they provide, including refuge accommodation, safe housing, outreach work and empowerment and educational programmes.

Following questions from members, the committee:

- Ask that the new Domestic Abuse Strategy is brought to the committee prior to going to Cabinet. Also, that the Strategy considers how Overview and Scrutiny could be part of the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategy.
- Seek confirmation that a Workforce Policy tackling domestic abuse is in place for Shropshire Council and if not recommends to development of one.
- Request that officers give consideration to including a Town and Parish Council and Community information/training element within the Strategy.
- Suggest consideration to what measures can be put in place to assist children who need to move schools as a consequence of domestic abuse.
- Ask STAR Housing what they could do in terms of domestic abuse.
- Requests updates on how Children's Services are involved in the development of the strategy.
- Requests updates on progress towards the White Ribbon accreditation.

19 Rural and Community Transport

The Chairman welcomed James Willocks, Passenger Transport Group Manager, to the meeting. James provided an update regarding the bid which has been submitted as part of the National Bus Strategy; the deadline for which is 31st October 2021.

Officers have developed an ambitious but practical Bus Service Improvement Plan as part of the bid; broken into three sections: Recovery, Levelling Up and Building Back Better. The outcome of the funding bid will be known in early December.

As part of the Plan, a survey was carried out to seek the views of residents on the provision of public transport in Shropshire.

Members raised concerns regarding the lack of transport available in rural areas, the type and size of vehicles being used for public transport on particular routes, and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

The Committee noted the results and volume of responses to the survey and is encouraged and supportive of the bid to the Department of Transport and look forward to receiving further updates on the progress of the bid.

James Willocks was thanked for the work completed so far.

20 Work Programme

Members considered the forward work programme

RESOLVED:

That the proposed committee work programme attached as appendix 1 be agreed.

21 Date/Time of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Communities Overview Committee was scheduled to be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 24th November 2021.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: